

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The flying head slider of claim 1, A flying head slider comprising:~~

a first air bearing having a plurality of step-faces and being disposed on a base surface at air inflow side; and

a second air bearing being disposed on the base surface at air outflow side,

wherein an upper most surface of said second air bearing is lower than an upper most surface of said first air bearing, and

~~wherein said first air bearing each of includes the plurality of step-faces having~~includes:

a first step-face;

a second step-face higher than the first step-face; and

the upper most surface higher than the second step-face, in this order from the air inflow side.

3.-6. (Cancelled).

7. (Original) The flying head slider of claim 2, wherein a height difference LA between the upper most surface of the first air bearing and the base surface falls within $3.2 \times 10^{-4} L \leq LA \leq 3.6 \times 10^{-4} L$, where L is a length of a longer side of the flying head slider.

8. (Original) The flying head slider of claim 7, wherein a height difference L2 between the upper most surface of the first air bearing and the second step-face of the first air bearing falls within $2.9 \times 10^{-2} LA \leq L2 \leq 3.3 \times 10^{-2} LA$.

9. (Original) The flying head slider of claim 7, wherein a height difference L1 between the first step-face of the first air bearing and the second step-face of the first air bearing falls within $13.4 \times 10^{-2} LA \leq L1 \leq 14.5 \times 10^{-2} LA$.

10. (Original) The flying head slider of claim 8, wherein a height difference L1 between the first step-face of the first air bearing and the second step-face of the first air bearing falls within $13.4 \times 10^{-2} LA \leq L1 \leq 14.5 \times 10^{-2} LA$.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Original) The flying head slider of claim 2, wherein said second air bearing includes a plurality of step-faces.

13. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of claim 12, wherein the plurality of step-faces of said second air bearing includes a further step-face formed higher than the base surface and an upper most surface formed higher than the step-face in this order from the air inflow side.

14. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of claim 12, wherein the plurality of step-faces of said second air bearing includes ~~two step-faces such as~~ a step-face formed higher than the base surface and an upper most surface formed higher than the further step-face in this order from the air inflow side.

15. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of claim 13, wherein the first step-face of said first air bearing is as high as the further step-face of said second air bearing.

16. (Currently Amended) The flying head slider of claim 14, wherein the first step-face of said first air bearing is as high as the further step-face of said second air bearing.

17. (Currently Amended) A head supporting device comprising:

a flying head slider comprising a first air bearing having a plurality of step-faces and being disposed on a base surface at air inflow side and a second air bearing having a head and being disposed on the base surface at air outflow side; and

a suspension for applying a given energizing force to the flying head slider from a side opposite to a side on which the first air bearing and the second air bearing are disposed on the base surface,

wherein an upper most surface of said second air bearing is lower than an upper most surface of said first air bearing, and

wherein each of the plurality of step-faces includes:

a first step-face;

a second step-face higher than the first step-face; and

the upper most surface higher than the second step-face, in this order from the air inflow side.

18. (Original) The head supporting device of claim 17, wherein the suspension includes a pivot that applies the given energizing force to the flying head slider.

19. (Currently Amended) A disc driving device comprising:

a flying head slider comprising a first air bearing having a plurality of step-faces and being disposed on a base surface at air inflow side and a second air bearing having a head and being disposed on the base surface at air outflow side;

a suspension for applying a given energizing force to the flying head slider from a side opposite to a side on which the first air bearing and the second air bearing are disposed on the base surface;

a disc-shaped recording medium;

driving means for driving the disc-shaped recording medium;

swinging means for swinging the suspension along a radius direction of the recording medium; and

control means for controlling the drive by the driving means and the swing by the swinging means,

wherein an upper most surface of said second air bearing is lower than an upper most surface of said first air bearing, and

wherein each of the plurality of step-faces includes:

a first step-face;

a second step-face higher than the first step-face; and

the upper most surface higher than the second step-face, in this order from the air inflow side.

20. (Original) The disc driving device of claim 19,

wherein the suspension includes a pivot that applies the given energizing force to the flying head slider, and

wherein a pivot place is defined as a place where the pivot of the suspension contacts the flying head slider and when a center of gravity of the head slider and the pivot place are projected onto a face of the disc, the two projected places coincide with each other.